18-July-2013

Short note on the Africa RISING Ethiopia partners meeting

Attendees

1. Peter Thorne/ILRI/
2. Kindu Mekonnen/ILRI/
3. Steffen Schulz/CIP/
4. Solomon Gebreselassie/CIP/
5. Valentine Gandhi /IWMI/
6. Simret Yasabu/ILRI/
7. Eliud Birachi/CIAT/

**Agendas**

1. Institutional update on activities related to Africa RISING
2. Way forward on how better to coordinate works related to Africa RISING
3. Per diem
4. **Institutional update on activities related to Africa RISING**

**CIP Update**

* Carried out Participatory community assessment in all the eight Africa RISING sites
* Has Identified farmers for field demonstration
* Two debriefing session were held at ILRI campus to update on the PCA activities
* The report from the PCA is under preparation and the consultant who was leading the work will send us the draft version once he finished the compilation ,
* Planting of demonstration plots have been carried out in Tigray, Amhara and SNNPR with selected farmers. Planting and field demonstration in Oromia will start next week
* ICRAF staffs are currently in Tigray and SNNPR and they are doing some survey work and Gebrehiwot from CIP is helping out in Tigray

Discussion

* Peter has planned to meet the PCA consultant in UK on Friday 26 July and discuss with him on how the PCA works went in all the sites. They will also consider the possible role of the consultant in any follow up work that may be required.
* The consultant will also be writing some conclusions and recommendations which will help to work on the way forward

**IWMI Update**

* Completed the quick water assessment and water management solutions with the PCA in three regions and Tigray will be covered next week
* A report will be complied out of the assessment to be used at a larger scale
* There is a green light to get pumps from Kick star international to use in some of the demonstration sites to look in to possible water management solutions
* We will compare those selected farmers(who planted faba beans, potato and wheat) and used the water management solution with those who are not using
* During the PCA it was observed that farmers are using traditional systems, however, they are very much interested to use better solutions. This could be an entry point to the demonstration
* Valentine will be on the field for the next three weeks but we can start on the demo quickly in some of the sites. there was a confirmation from Peter that Africa RISING will have a budget supporting the demonstrations as well as establishment of water harvesting and utilization facilities

**CIAT Update**

* Eliud is catching up on the reports that has already been produced including SLATE and PCA
* CIAT wants to build on what has already been done that is related to this work in the different regions
* Ready to begin the rest of the market components. Team is being assembled now in collaboration with Kindu
* Before the rapid market assessment and the value chain analyses are conducted, reference will be made to the findings under the SLATE and PCA results. Focus will be on rapid assessments to move to the next step as fast as possible
* Eliud had a discussion with Kindu and other institutions on the planned activities
* CIP will have a Value Chain / Impact Assessment post doc (50% AR funding, 50% CIP funding) joining in October to support the work with CIAT
* A draft report will be produced the annual learning event

**Suggestion:** it was suggested to link up with the outcomes of the PCA activities. It was also suggested to include IWMI to contribute for the value chain assessment t and water management technologies

**Action Point**: Valentine and Eliud to have a brief meeting

**ILRI Update**

* Africa RISING in collaboration with NBDC organized a training SLATE : attendants included NBDC IP facilitators and Africa RISING sites partners
* A Follow up livelihoods analysis was carried out in all the eight Africa RISING sites. A total of 480 farmers took part in the household survey.
* The data collected from the survey was entered with the support extended from CIP and Peter has done analysis for one Kebele. Peter will circulate to those who haven’t received the analysis
* ATA: is working on the soil test and will recommend which fertilizer best works for which soil
* Site coordinators: the post to hire four site coordinators was advertised and a total of 136 people applied. HR has done the summary. Kindu and Peter are working on the shortlist and they have identifies candidates
* We are closely working with CIP on the PCA and on farm research activities

Suggestion: ATA has a project on small scale water irrigation for intensification thus it would be good if IWMI sees a way to collaborate

**ICRAF Update**

* ICRAF has already started the local knowledge acquisition field work jointly with our national partners
* Southern region (Hossana) is led by Anne kuria from Nairobi
* Tigray – Martha Cronin
* We will identify community knowledge groups and other stakeholders as a basis to establish innovation platform (as discussed with Kindu last week) and we will try to engage MSC students as well.
* Aster and Kiros will go out to the field next week .
* ICRAF national partner from FRC (together with SD3 ICRAF) has prepared a checklist on seed and seedling value chain system and we will start the field work soon.
* Training on local knowledge will start 12th of August - we will announce the final training programs end of next week.

1. **Way forward on how better to coordinate works related to Africa RISING**

* Each center working for Africa RISING is going on its own way and engaging the farmers. As a result farmers are overloaded and expressing their concern
* There needs to be a way to coordinate our plans and update activities

**Action Points:**

* To have a regular get together or meeting every two months and have an adhoc one if needed between two meetings. The venue for the meeting and the inclusion of the site coordinators can be decided later.
* Field calendar is important to integrate activities. Each institution to send their plans to Simret
* Simret to find a way on wiki to create a separate calendar page that shows our plans

1. **Per diem**

* We need to have a common approach for partners in the field and we need to have some written guidance
* We need also to have a common approach for farmers : whether to compensate the time they spend with us in terms of money or in kind

**Action Point:** Peter to work on this issue and to come up with a draft guiding note